

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RANGOO 02967 160123Z

20

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SNM-02 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 AID-05

OES-03 TRSE-00 IO-10 OMB-01 /100 W
----- 120599

R 151030Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 446

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY DACCA BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 2967

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA #39

1. CINCPAC VISIT (LOU)

ADMIRAL AND MRS. GAYLOR ARRIVED IN RANGOON OCTOBER 13 FOR A THREE DAY UNOFFICIAL VISIT AS GUESTS OF THE AMBASSADOR. PARTY TRAVELED TO MANDALAY AND PAGAN OCTOBER 14. COMMENT: DESPITE UNOFFICIAL NATURE OF THE VISIT AND GUB INSISTENCE THAT THE ADMIRAL COME AS A TOURIST, DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL TIN OO LET IT BE KNOWN THAT A COURTESY CALL BY ADMIRAL GAYLOR WOULD BE WELCOME AND THIS WAS ARRANGED FOR OCTOBER 15. ADMIRAL GAYLOR IS THE HIGHEST RANKING
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PAGE 02 RANGOO 02967 160123Z

US MILITARY OFFICER TO VISIT BURMA IN MANY YEARS.

2. GUB PUBLICIZES CAMPAIGN AGAINST OPIUM TRAFFICKERS (UNCLAS)
LOCAL PRESS OCTOBER 15 CARRIED LENGTHY STORIES AND PHOTOS DETAIL-
ING RECENT BURMA ARMY CAMPAIGN AGAINST SURA AND CIF TRAFFICKERS AS
WELL AS EARLIER CAMPAIGNS OF JUNE AND APRIL 1975. GUB CLAIMS
THAT OPERATION IN MID-SEPTEMBER IN WHICH PAN PI TRAFFICKING HEAD-
QUARTERS SITE CAPTURED AND DESTROYED NETTED LARGE QUANTITIES OF
AMMUNITION AS WELL AS OPIUM SOLUTION. TWO BURMA ARMY SOLDIERS AND
THREE OF THE TRAFFICKERS KILLED. (RANGOON 2958). COMMENT:
ACCORDING TO GUB SOURCES, AT LEAST TWO OF THE USG-SUPPLIED BELL
HELICOPTERS WERE USED FOR LOGISTIC SUPPORT IN THE SEPT. CAMPAIGN.

3. BSPP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETS - BRIEFLY (UNCLAS)
BSPP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET OCT 13 IN PREPARATION FOR OPENING OF
THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 15. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE
MEETING WAS OPENED BY PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY SAN YU AND CONCLUDED
WITH A SPEECH BY PRESIDENT NE WIN. COMMENT: THE COMMITTEE EVI-
DENTLY DID NOT DWELL IN DEPTH ON THE ISSUES AT HAND SINCE THE
MEETING LASTED 40 MINUTES.

4. GUB MEETS WITH MUSLIM LEADERS (CONF)
HOME MINISTER U KO KO MET OCT 12 WITH LEADERS OF THE MAJOR MUSLIM
ORGANIZATIONS IN BURMA TO REASSURE THEM OF GUB SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM
OF RELIGION AND TO REJECT UNIDENTIFIED FOREIGN PRESS STORIES AL-
LEGING BURMESE SUPPRESSION OF MUSLIM ACTIVITIES. MEETING FOLLOWED
BY PRESS EDITORIALS REAFFIRMING FREEDOM OF RELIGION BUT NOTING
THAT RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS SHOULD NOT ENGAGE IN POLITICS. PRESS
CREDITED U KO KO WITH "TRUE MAGNANIMITY" IN NOT IDENTIFYING
COUNTRIES OR NEWSPAPERS IN WHICH "SCHEMING CULPRITS" HAD ALLEGED
RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE ON PART OF GUB. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO
ONE SOURCE, MUSLIM LEADERS HAD RECENTLY BEEN OFFERED FREE PAS-
SAGE TO MECCA AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF A MAJOR MOSQUE IN BURMA BY
UNSPECIFIED OIL RICH ARAB COUNTRY BUT THIS WAS TURNED DOWN BY
PRESIDENT NE WIN. PRESS REPORTS THEN APPEARED IN INDIA AND BANG-
LADESH ALLEGING ANTI-MUSLIM ATTITUDE OF GUB. GOVERNMENT MAY ALSO
BE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED SINCE MANY MUSLIMS ARE U NE FOLLOWERS AND
GUB CONSIDERS MUSLIM ORGANIZATIONS POTENTIALLY SUBVERSIVE; EMBASSY
HAS HAD INDICATIONS THAT BSPP ALERTED ITS FOLLOWERS TO WATCH FOR
ANTI-GOVERNMENT CONSPIRACY AMONG MUSLIM COMMUNITY.

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PAGE 03 RANGOO 02967 160123Z

5. FOREIGN POLICY: A TILT TOWARD CHINA? (LOU)
WPD EDITORIAL ON FOREIGN MINISTER HLA PHONE'S ADDRESS TO THE UNGA
(RANGOON 2924) REITERATED BURMA'S OPPOSITION TO "OUTSIDE INTER-
VENTION" IN THE REGION BUT ADDS "THE THREAT TO PEACE AND REGIONAL
TRANQUILITY IS ALL THE GREATER WHEN MORE THAN ONE POWER IS IN-
VOLVED IN THE EFFORT TO ESTABLISH HEGEMONY". COMMENT: IT REMAINS
TO BE SEEN IF THE REFERENCE TO "HEGEMONY" WAS DELIBERATE OR SIMPLY
THE PRODUCT OF A CASUAL DRAFTING; HOWEVER, IT IS LIKELY THAT OUR

SOVIET COLLEAGUES HERE WILL BE WATCHING WITH INTEREST TO SEE IF THIS PRC CODEWORD FOR SOVIET EXPANSIONISM BEGINS TO APPEAR IN OFFICIAL TEXTS MORE FREQUENTLY.

6. BURMESE DELEGATION TO CANTON TRADE FAIR (LOU)
DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER U THEIN MYINT IS HEADING A NINE MEMBER TRADE DELEGATION TO THE AUTUMN TRADE FAIR WHICH LEFT RANGOON OCTOBER 10. COMMENT: GUB REPORTEDLY HAS PRC AGREEMENT TO USE PART OF THE OUTSTANDING BALANCE OF THE 1961 CAPITAL LOAN FOR COMMODITY PURCHASES. BURMESE ARE PROBABLY IN THE MARKET FOR CONSUMER GOODS SUCH AS TEXTILES AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS.

7. INSURGENCY: BCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER KILLED (UNCLAS)
LOCAL PAPERS REPORTED ON OCTOBER 13 THAT SOE KYI, BCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, AND BO PHONE GYAW, PEGU DIVISION COMMITTEE MEMBER, HAD BEEN "CAPTURED DEAD" IN PEGU HILLS BY BURMA ARMY ELEMENTS ON OCTOBER 11. THE RELEASE STATED THAT THE TWO HAD NO CONTACT WITH THEIR HEADQUARTERS SINCE MARCH 15, 1975, WHEN THAKIN ZIN AND THAKIN CHIT, TWO PROMINENT BCP LEADERS, WERE KILLED IN A JUNGLE FIGHT. COMMENT: SOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY CONFIRM SOE KYI'S STATUS AS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. SOE KYI HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE BCP SINCE 1946. DESPITE GUB ASSERTIONS THAT BCP ACTIVITY IN THE PEGU HILLS CEASED WITH THE DEATHS OF THAKIN ZIN AND CHIT, THERE EVIDENTLY CONTINUES TO EXIST SOME BCP REMNANTS IN THE AREA.

8. NARCOTICS: HEROIN SEIZURES (UNCLAS)
IN THREE SEPARATE ACTIONS, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, 43,000 KYAT WORTH OF NUMBER FOUR HEROIN WAS CONFISCATED AND FOUR ARRESTS MADE IN THREE LOCALES. THE TOTAL QUANTITY OF HEROIN WAS ESTIMATED AT MORE THAN ONE KILOGRAM.
OSBORN

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